

- Merriweather Post Pavilion  
..... Columbia: (410) 730-2424
- Olney Theatre ..... Olney: (301) 924-3400
- Strathmore Hall Arts Center  
..... Rockville: (301) 530-0540
- Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art  
..... Salisbury: (410) 742-4988

**BOATING WATERS**

Maryland has twenty-three rivers and bays with more than 400 miles of water tributary to the Chesapeake Bay; coastal bays with 35 miles of water accessible to and from the Atlantic Ocean; 23,000 wet boat slips (1993 est.); 200 public boat ramps and access points; 190,000 State-registered pleasure boats, including federally documented vessels principally used in Maryland; 2,361 commercial fishing boats; and 1,118 others.

**BRIDGES**

The William Preston Lane, Jr., Memorial Bridge (Chesapeake Bay Bridge) spans 4.2 miles across the middle of Chesapeake Bay. Opened in 1952, the Bridge transformed access to the eastern shore of the State. A second parallel Bay Bridge opened in 1973. The 1.6-mile long Francis Scott Key Bridge spanned Baltimore Harbor in 1977.

**CAPITAL**

Annapolis is the State capital but St. Mary's City was the first seat of colonial government. In 1694, the General Assembly designated Anne Arundel Town as the capital and, in February 1694/ 5, the government moved there. After Queen Mary's death in December 1694, Anne Arundel Town was renamed Annapolis for her sister, the heiress apparent, Princess Anne.

**CHESAPEAKE BAY**

In North America, Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary, a semi-enclosed coastal body of water with a free connection to the open sea. Fresh water from land drainage measurably dilutes seawater within the Bay. Its watershed provides rich habitat for an abundance of life. In addition to resident species of fish and wildlife, the Bay supports large winter populations of migratory waterfowl and provides spawning, nursery and feeding grounds for ocean fish. Native Americans living along its shores named the Bay "Chesepiook," meaning great shellfish bay, because of its abundant crabs, oysters, and clams. Generations of watermen have made their living harvesting the bounty of the Bay, while recreational fishing, hunting, and boating attract millions of people each year and contribute significantly to Maryland's economy. For ocean-going ships, the Bay is navigable with two outlets to the Atlantic Ocean: north through the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal in Cecil County, and south through the mouth of the Bay between the Virginia capes.

*Watershed.* The rivers, creeks, and streams which flow into the Bay, the land surrounding them, and the Bay itself make up the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Main tributaries—Susquehanna River, Potomac River, James River—contribute 80% of the Bay's fresh water. Total tributaries: 419. Watershed area: 64,000 square miles in parts of six states—Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia, West Virginia—and the District of Columbia. Watershed population: 16.4 million (1990).

*Main Basin*

Area	
MD .....	1,726 square miles
VA .....	1,511 square miles
Length .....	195 miles
Width	
(widest near Cape Charles, VA) . . . .	30 miles
(narrowest at Annapolis) .....	4 miles
Shoreline .....	4,600 miles
Depth	
average .....	25 feet
greatest (SE of Annapolis) .....	174 feet
Tidal Range	
at Annapolis .....	1 foot
at head .....	2 feet
at mouth .....	3 feet
Volume .....	18 trillion gallons
Surface Salinity (parts per thousand)	
at mouth .....	30 ppt
midway to head .....	15 ppt
above fall line .....	00 ppt
surface to bottom .....	2-3 ppt

**CLIMATE**

Generally moderate, varies from mild to hot in summer, and in winter from moderate in the east and south to very cold in the western mountains. Average annual rainfall: 40.76 inches. Average seasonal snowfall: 20.6 inches, ranging from 10 inches on the lower Eastern Shore to 110 inches in Garrett County. Average annual temperature: 55.1 degrees Fahrenheit, with high temperatures in July, the warmest month, averaging in the mid to upper 80s and the low temperatures in January, the coldest month, averaging in the low to mid 20s. Duration of the freeze-free period averages 185 days, ranging from 130 days in Garrett County to 230 days in the southern Chesapeake Bay area.

**DISTANCES**

Longest east-west, 198.6 miles—Fairfax Stone to Delaware Line; north-south, 125.5 miles—Pennsylvania line to Virginia line at Smith Point on south shore mouth of Potomac River; shortest north-south, 1.9 miles—Pennsylvania line to south bank of Potomac River near Hancock; farthest points, northwest corner to southeast corner at Atlantic Ocean, 254.7 miles.